

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 25, 1976
(SALT TWO-918)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMB. JOHNSON
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF FEB 25, 1976.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

FEBRUARY 25, 1976

MR. MINISTER:

I

IN THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP MEETING ON FEBRUARY 24, THE U.S.
SIDE TABLED A REVISED PROPOSAL FOR PARAGRAPH 5 OF ARTICLE II OF THE
JOINT DRAFT TEXT, THE DEFINITION OF A MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY-
TARGETABLE REENTRY VEHICLE (MIRV) SYSTEM. INCLUDED IN THIS PROPOSAL
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WAS A MODIFICATION OF THE AGREED STATEMENT RELATING TO THIS PARAGRAPH

TODAY I WILL DISCUSS FURTHER THE RATIONALE FOR THE FORMAT OF THE U.S. DEFINITION OF A MIRV SYSTEM, AND ALSO EXPLAIN THE TEXT WHICH WAS TABLED IN THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP. IN ADDITION, I WILL PROPOSE A MODIFICATION TO THE U.S. DEFINITION OF THROW-WEIGHT, TO MAKE IT CONSISTENT WITH THE CHANGES IN OUR PROPOSAL FOR PARAGRAPH 5 OF ARTICLE II.

II

THE U.S. DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT ITSELF SHOULD CONTAIN THE DEFINITIVE CRITERIA BY WHICH IT IS DETERMINED

WHETHER A SYSTEM WHICH CONTAINS TWO OR MORE REENTRY VEHICLES WILL BE CONSIDERED A MIRV SYSTEM. WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT A DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPONENTS WHICH CAN CONSTITUTE A MIRV SYSTEM. THIS DESCRIPTION, IN THE U.S. VIEW, SHOULD NOT BE ANOTHER DEFINITION OF AMIRV SYSTEM, BUT SHOULD BE AN EXPLANATORY SUPPLEMENT TO THAT DEFINITION.

THE TEXT PROPOSED BY THE U.S. IN THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP ON FEBRUARY 24 IS AS FOLLOWS:

"ARTICLE II

5. A MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY-TARGETABLE REENTRY VEHICLE (MIRV) SYSTEM IS ANY DISPENSING MECHANISM, TOGETHER WITH ITS REENTRY VEHICLES, WHICH CAN CAUSE TWO OR MORE REENTRY VEHICLES FROM A BALLISTIC MISSILE TO MOVE ALONG SEPARATE TRAJECTORIES WHICH CAN BE SELECTED FREELY RELATIVE TO EACH OTHER.

AGREED STATEMENT

REENTRY VEHICLES WHICH ARE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE WHICH ARE MANEUVERED AND INDEPENDENTLY TARGETED TO SEPARATE TARGETS BY MEANS OF DEVICES WHICH ARE INSTALLED IN THE FRONT END (IN A SELF-CONTAINED DISPENSING MECHANISM) OR ON THE
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REENTRY VEHICLES OR ELSEWHERE ON THE MISSILE AND WHICH ARE BASED ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER COMPUTERS IN COMBINATION WITH DEVICES USING (A) JET (ROCKET) ENGINES, (B) AERODYNAMIC SYSTEMS, OR (C) OTHER DEVICES FOR TARGETING THE REENTRY VEHICLES."

THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR PARAGRAPH 5 OF ARTICLE II MAKES CLEAR THE MEANING OF THE TERM "INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE. TO TARGET A REENTRY

VEHICLE IS TO CAUSE A REENTRY VEHICLE TO MOVE ALONG THE DESIRED TRAJECTORY TOWARD A CERTAIN TARGET. THE DEFINITION STATES THAT TWO OR MORE REENTRY VEHICLES FROM A BALLISTIC MISSILE ARE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE IF EACH OF THEM CAN BE TARGETED WITHOUT REGARD TO THE TARGETING OF THE OTHER REENTRY VEHICLE OR VEHICLES. THUS THE TRAJECTORY OF EACH OF THE INDEPENDENTLY-TARGETABLE REENTRY VEHICLES CAN BE SELECTED FREELY.

THE U.S. DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT ITS PROPOSAL FOR PARAGRAPH 5 OF ARTICLE II CONSTITUTES A CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF A MIRV SYSTEM. HOWEVER, AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPONENTS BY WHICH THE INDEPENDENT TARGETING OF REENTRY VEHICLES CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND BELIEVE THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN AN AGREED STATEMENT. SUCH AN AGREED STATEMENT AS PROPOSED BY THE U.S. IS WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF A PARTIAL LIST OF SUCH COMPONENTS

TO ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT FUTURE SYSTEMS COULD ACCOMPLISH INDEPENDENT TARGETING BY MEANS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED. THE AGREED STATEMENT INCLUDES ALL OF THE COMPONENTS LISTED IN THE SOVIET SUGGESTION. AS DOES THE SOVIET SUGGESTION, IT ALLOWS THAT THE DEVICES FOR MANEUVERING AND INDEPENDENT TARGETING COULD BE INSTALLED ON THE MISSILE IN THE FRONT END OR ON THE REENTRY VEHICLES. IN ADDITION, IT ALSO ALLOWS FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DEVICES COULD BE INSTALLED AT OTHER LOCATIONS ON THE MISSILE.

III

ON FEBRUARY 6 THE U.S. DELEGATION PROPOSED A DEFINITION OF THROW-WEIGHT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT AS AN AGREED STATEMENT

WE HAVE REEXAMINED THIS DEFINITION IN THE LIGHT OF THE REVISED DEFINITION OF A MIRV SYSTEM WHICH I HAVE JUST DISCUSSED, AND BELIEVE
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THAT THE LANGUAGE IN THE TWO DEFINITIONS SHOULD BE CONSISTENT. ACCORDINGLY, THE U.S. DELEGATION PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING REVISED TEXT FOR THE DEFINITION OF THROW-WEIGHT:

"THE THROW-WEIGHT OF A BALLISTIC MISSILE IS THE SUM OF THE WEIGHT OF: (1) ITS REENTRY VEHICLES OR VEHICLES, (2) ITS PENETRATION AIDS, AND (3) ANY BUSES OR OTHER DEVICES IT HAS FOR PROPULSION, GUIDANCE, CONTROL, OR RELEASE WHICH CAN CAUSE REENTRY VEHICLES OR PENETRATION AIDS TO MOVE ALONG SEPARATE TRAJECTORIES."

IV

MR. MINISTER, I HOPE THAT THIS DISCUSSION WILL ASSIST THE CONSIDERATION OF THESE SUBJECTS.

JOHNSON

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